

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A thermal shield and hermetic seal for a spliced portion of cable, comprising a plurality of insulated conductors, the thermal shield and hermetic seal protecting the spliced portion against exposure to heat, oxygen and ultraviolet radiation, and comprising:

a sheet of non-rigid, reinforced aluminum material wrapped over at least one exposed insulated conductor of the spliced portion of the cable, the sheet of aluminum material contacting the at least one exposed insulated conductor;

a pressure wrap wrapped over the sheet of aluminum material; and

a rigid enclosure housing the sheet of aluminum material and the pressure wrap.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The thermal shield and hermetic seal according to claim 1, in which the pressure wrap comprises a half lap double wrap.

4. (Original) The thermal shield and hermetic seal according to claim 3, further comprising a seal that secures at least one end of the pressure wrap.

5. (Original) The thermal shield and hermetic seal according to claim 4, in which the seal comprises self-adhesive tape wrapped around the pressure wrap.

6. (Original) The thermal shield and hermetic seal according to claim 5, in which an outer end of the tape comprises a twisted pigtail, accommodating re-entry into the spliced portion.

7. (Previously Presented) A removable shield covering a conductor access point of a cable,

P24110.A05

the conductor access point enabling access to a portion of the cable comprising a plurality of exposed insulated wires, the removable shield comprising:

a layer of flexible aluminum wrap that covers the plurality of exposed insulated wires, the aluminum wrap layer being in direct contact with at least one of the exposed insulated wires; and

a layer of pressure wrap that directly covers the aluminum wrap layer, the pressure wrap configured to eliminate air from between the exposed insulated wires and the layer of flexible aluminum wrap;

the removable shield reducing exposure of the exposed insulated wires to heat, oxygen and ultraviolet radiation.

8. (Original) The removable shield according to claim 7, in which the plurality of exposed insulated wires are disposed between drip collars on each end of the conductor access point, the aluminum wrap layer and the pressure wrap layer further covering each drip collar.

9. (Previously Presented) The removable shield according to claim 8, further comprising a removable housing that encases the layer of aluminum, the layer of pressure wrap and the drip collars.

10. (Previously Presented) The removable shield according to claim 8, in which each of the drip collars is positioned between an inner jacket and an outer jacket of the cable.

11. (Previously Presented) The removable shield according to claim 7, the conductor access point comprising a sealing collar, wherein the plurality of exposed insulated wires extend through the sealing collar, the aluminum wrap layer and the pressure wrap layer further covering the sealing collar.

12. (Original) The removable shield according to claim 11, further comprising a removable

housing that encases the layer of aluminum, the layer of pressure wrap and the sealing collar.

13. (Original) The removable shield according to claim 7, in which the aluminum wrap comprises a layer of ultraviolet inhibitor film, a layer of aluminum foil and a layer of polyethylene.

14. (Original) The removable shield according to claim 13, in which the aluminum wrap is laminated.

15. (Original) The removable shield according to claim 7, in which the aluminum wrap comprises a layer polyethylene having an aluminum reinforced inner core.

16. (Original) The removable shield according to claim 7, in which the pressure wrap layer comprises a half lap double wrap.

17. (Original) The removable shield according to claim 7, in which the pressure wrap layer comprises at least two layers of pressure wrap.

18. (Original) The removable shield according to claim 7, in which the pressure wrap layer forces air out of the conductor access point.

19. (Original) The removable shield according to claim 15, further comprising a layer of tape that secures the layer of pressure wrap.

20. (Currently Amended) An open access splice closure that encases a plurality of exposed insulated wires of a cable, the closure comprising:

a non-rigid sheet that is wrapped directly around the plurality of exposed insulated wires to provide at least one of a heat shield and a radiation shield for the exposed insulated wires, the non-rigid sheet including aluminum;

an stretch wrap that is wrapped directly around the non-rigid sheet to provide a hermetic seal

P24110.A05

for the exposed insulated wires, the stretch wrap configured to eliminate air from between the exposed insulated wires and the non-rigid sheet; and

a removable housing enclosing the stretch wrap and the non-rigid sheet.